channels of Doordarshan as well as the cable channels are based only on two subjects *i.e.* superstition and extra-marital relations;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that rural India is not visible in these serials;

(c) whether the representation of knowledge, science, art-culture and agriculture in all these programmes is very nominal; and

(d) if so, the action being taken by Government to change this situation?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) Prasar Bharati has informed that Doordarshan as a public service broadcaster does not telecast programmes which support superstition and illicit relations. All the programmes telecast on Doordarshan are previewed before telecast, in accordance with the provisions of Doordarshan's Broadcast Code, to ensure that they are suitable for family viewing.

The programmes telecast on satellite channels when distributed through cable network, are required to adhere to the Programme Code laid down in the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995. The Programme code does not permit programmes which encourage superstitions or offend good taste and decency.

It is also the constant endeavour of Doordarshan to depict various facets of rural culture through its programmes.

(c) Prasar Bharati has informed that Doordarshan telecasts programmes on information, education and entertainment. Educational programmes on Doordarshan cover various subjects like science, art, culture, agriculture, health, environment etc.

Government has no role in programme decisions of private satellite TV networks.

(d) Does not arise.

Performance of DD News channel

547. SHRI B.P. SINGHAL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 'DD News' was hiring outside persons to run its programmes;

(b) the total life span of 'DD News';

(c) how much payment was made to these outsiders;

(d) the names of the 20 most expensive ones and the total amount each of them received for these programmes;

(e) the reasons for closing down DD News Channel; and

(f) whether tenders were invited for telecast of these programmes?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Prasar Bharati has informed that DD News Channel had commissioned programmes from private producers.

(b) DD News Channel was made operational with effect from 15th August, 1999 and was closed down on 25th January, 2002.

(c) An amount of Rs. 92.87 crores was paid to the private producers.

(d) Details are given in the Statement (*See* below).

(e) As a part of its restructuring exercise, Prasar Bharati closed down the DD News Channel due to its high cost and low visibility.

(f) No, Sir.

Statement

List of Top 20 firms/agencies which earned maximum commissioning Amount during the years 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002.

S.No.	Name of the Agency	Total Amount paid (Rs. in lakhs)
1	2	3
1.	M/s. Independent Media Pvt. Ltd. -	1131.50
2.	M/s. Trans World International -	931.00
3.	M/s. BAG Films Pvt. Ltd. -	741.00
4.	M/s. Nimbus Communications -	738.00
5.	M/s. Asian News International -	589.55
6.	M/s. River Bank Studio -	369.50

1	2		3
7.	M/s. Saeed Naqvi (World Report)	-	322.50
8.	M/s. APCA	-	314.45
9.	M/s. Shally Suman Production	-	311.46
10.	M/s. IMAK New & Entertainment	-	226.80
11.	M/s. Multi Media	-	217.15
12.	M/s. UTV Ltd.	-	211.53
13.	M/s. IN TV	-	200.20
14.	M/s. Team Work	-	181.15
15.	M/s. Moving Pictures	-	171.20
16.	M/s. Radical Entertainment	-	166.50
17.	M/s. New Delhi Communications	-	162.75
18.	M/s. Relative Media	-	159.75
19.	M/s. Proscenium Production	-	154.00
20.	M/s. Media Intermix	-	134.65

Payment Claims by T.V. Channels

548. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether in September 2000, the Cable Operators and T.V. Channels were at loggerheads for additional payment claims by T.V. Channels on account of more subscribers;

(b) whether subscribers were the losers as certain channels were not being shown inspite of advance payments made; and

(c) the action proposed to help subscribers having rights to view channels paid for without hindrance and harassment by operators?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) Matters relating to subscription charges and payment claims arising between cable operators, Multi-System Operators and TV channel companies, are commercial decisions/private contracts between the various stake holders. At present the Government has no role to play in these matters.